SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — November 13, 1972

No 173

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

FEB 13 1973
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editorial

We fight on our gains will be bigger

THE war in Viet Nam and Indochina is still raging with increased ferocity. Mr Nixon and nobody else is held fully responsible for that grave state of thing.

Yet, peace would have been at hand. With full consent of the PRG, the Government of the DRVN has had private talks with the American side and on the basis of the DRVN's draft, reached an Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. Both sides have also agreed to sign the said agreement on October 31, as proposed by Mr Nixon himself.

If the US side honoured what it had agreed, the conflict would have ended 24 hours later, the American GIs would be repatriated within 60 days, captured armymen of both sides would be handed over, and millions of American and Vietnamese families would enjoy the re-union with their dear ones. And the Vietnamese, regardless of their political opinion, would hold consultations in the spirit of national concord and pool their efforts in healing the war wounds and rebuilding their country. But the bloodshed continues and millions of Vietnamese and American homes keep suffering.

WHY that volte-face and renegement?

Nobody ignores that the Viet Nam war is a bad headache for Mr Nixon. It has drained a huge flow of dollars from the American budget and plunged the economy and finance of that country into a serious and prolonged crisis. Unemployment, inflation, the devaluation and abdication of the US dollar in the capitalist world monetary system, the chaos and crackling of the American society, the arousing of the American citizens' conscience, have originated directly or indirectly from the Viet Nam war and put the Nixon administration before insoluble domestic problems. The Viet Nam war has also lowered the prestige of the USA among the capitalist system. Its allies have turned into enemy and US-dependent countries been striving to get rid of the American sway, while former defeated countries have become the redoubtable opponents of America on the world economic front. That background together with disappointing realities on the Viet Nam and Indochina battlefields has pushed Mr Nixon to the conference table for an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace, in a bid to stave off the predicaments in the States and in the immediate help the Nixon group win the harsh race to the White House.

But Nixon remains Nixon — the brutal and cunning hawk. The US imperialists remain the bellicose and aggressive chieftain of all imperialists, possessed of the mightiest military and economic potentialities among the capitalist camp, at a time when capitalism is going downhill and old colonialism running bankrupt. That is why Mr Nixon is sticking to the US global strategy now dubbed the 'Nixon doctrine.' He is reluctant to give up the 'Nixon doctrine' in Asia. Thus, in spite of his agreement with the DRVN Government, he is trying hard to delay its signing and alter certain provisions already agreed upon.

IS it that Mr Nixon has had difficulties in Saigon as he uses to clamour? Now, he himself does not believe it. In fact, how can the mini-dictator Nguyen Van Thieu oppose Mr Nixon? How can the tail command the head of a dog? Wasn't the plight of such tails that refused to wag evidenced by the dramatic death of the Diem-Nhu brothers? The thing is that Thieu has been authorized to disobey Mr Nixon just because the latter badly wants someone to do so. Facts once again testify to Thieu's role as a docile instrument for aggression, domination and 'Vietnamization of the war.' That personage has also been used to hamper and postpone a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. Four years ago, when the Paris peace talks started, he was employed by Mr Nixon to defer the holding of the quadripartite conference and then to torpedo it again and again. Thieu's sudden capacity to 'veto' Mr Nixon's diktat is but part and parcel of that scheme. The proof is that during the negotiations and in the battlefield realities, Mr Nixon has been seeking ways and means to keep Nguyen Van Thieu in office and trying hard to strengthen the Saigon rotten regime and increase its military potentialities.

In this connection, what can one see since the opening of private talks and during the negotiations termed by Mr Nixon himself as serious and delicate? First and foremost, the hostilities go on with unheard-of savagery. The number of US aircraft sorties, including B.52s', continue to raise with wholesale devastation: within one day and night, B.52s accounted for 25 sorties, and for less than 24 hours, strategic aircraft's carpet bombings amounted to 12 flights over a tiny hamlet near Saigon.

Here is another war action taken by Mr Nixon: military equipment, planes, armoured cars are being introduced into South Viet Nam. C.130, C.141 and C.5A cargo planes heavily laden with weapons and hardware have been landing on the Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa airfields. Up to November 15, Saigon air forces will be reinforced with 400 F.5, A.37, A.1 fighters and C.130, CH.47 helicopters. F.5 fighters from South Korea have been sent to Saigon. In the same way, US air and naval forces based in Thailand, Japan, the Philippines and the Pacific have received more equipment. Meanwhile no few American military advisers, graduates from Westpoint will be left behind as 'civilians' in South Viet Nam.

How can Mr Nixon speak of goodwill for peace and serious negotiations when he tries his best to delay the signing of the accord on ending the war, and to supply more and more armaments to Saigon? Is this what he wants to 'clarify' before signing the agreement? Is this a necessity to bring about a lasting and durable peace, national concord and the right to self-determination to South Viet Nam? There is ample proof to say that Mr Nixon is striving to beef up the Saigon administration and army. Mr Nixon's actions during these last days have been obviously to sabotage peace and negotiations.

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As long as a single aggressor remains in our soil, we will fight on to wipe him out

in the cities

— Hotel workers in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area have sent in a petition protesting the American owners for breaking contracts, delaying payment or non-payment of wages. By the end of October, most workers employed by Star House Hotel had not yet received their August and September pay and family allowances. At the New Dupont billeting quarters, a number of workers still had not received their seniority benefits.

The workers demanded immediate payment of all money due.

— The Saigon General Association of Students has recently made public the first list of South Viet Nam students and pupils being detained and tortured in various prisons in South Viet Nam. According to preliminary statistics, by July 18, 1972, the Thieu regime had kept in jail nearly 400 students and pupils 180 of them from Dalat and 140 others from Saigon, Can Tho, Hue, Da Nang and An Giang.

— On October 22, Chi Hoa jail keepers savagely beat up political prisoners for having had opposed the show-up of one of their comrades.

Preliminary reports said following this bloody repression, over 10 prisoners had to be sent to hospital as emergencies. Public opinion in Saigon held that the brutalities against political prisoners were part and parcel of the US-Thieu plan for their physical liquidation, in face of the powerful popular movement for the release of all people under detention.

— According to a document of the Catholics Strike for Peace movement in Saigon, among the10,000-odd prisoners held by Thieu at Chi Hoa jail there are 2,691 draft resisters including 847 who carried false papers to dodge the general mobilization order, and 1,240 deserters. Thieu agents have threatened to bring them to a field military tribunal.

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Concluded)

13.—TWILIGHT OF A REGIME

SAIGON, May 1972.

Long convoys of military trucks are bringing wounded soldiers back from An Loc through Lai Khe. They are heading for the Republican Hospital.

Highway 4, which leads to the provinces, is blocked for long hours at a time.

On the morning of the 10th, the whole city is astir. Martial law has been clamped down on the whole of the territory of South Viet Nam, a measure without precedent over the past 25 years. Even in Diem's time, only a state of emergency was sometimes decreed. At nightfall, the streets are all deserted.

The draft, which hits men from the age of 17 to 43, set the town agog. The press remarks: "It takes everyone, from striplings to hoary heads."

US Vice-President Spiro Agnew sent to Viet Nam on an inspection tour, thought he could not stay in Saigon overnight for security reasons. On hand at the airport to greet a worried and irritable Agnew was Thieu, who had suddenly grown old. In late 1970, he had had to dye a mass of his hair at the back of his head a dignified grey so as to make him look more like the venerable "father of the Republic" he had been trying to set himself up as. But since then, no dye had any longer been necessary to turn part of his head white.

One Friday morning, the Proconsul Bunker flew by helicopter from his fortress-embassy to the Tan Son Nhut airfield to welcome General Alexander Haig, the security assistant of President Nixon, who had come on a fact-finding mission. Bunker's back was hunched up and his cheeks were sagging. He didn't even bother to wave a greeting to the American officials present. He is too old, people say, nearly 80, and too much depressed by the impending doom of his President's policy of "Vietnamization." It is rumoured that he is about to retire. His greatest grief has been his failure to build a viable political party in Saigon, one which has a broad popular base and might serve as a "Labour and Personalism" party without its bellwether Diem. The *Khaki Party*, his pampered child, has been a big flop.

Talking to a friend in a small villa in Thu Duc, a college professor said: "The Old Fridge can't sleep because of the deterioration in the military situation, and he has been crying over the political decomposition that has taken place." The professor was of course right. The Americans want the Saigon generals to fight the patriots, but all they care for is their coffers. Of the four Corps Area commanders, one, Tri, has been burnt to ashes in his downed helicopter; two, Lam and Dzu, have been dismissed and are awaiting trial. The fourth and only one remaining, Truong, has been hastily sent from the Mekong Delta to the northernmost provinces of Tri-Thien. But Truong is only an incompetent swashbuckler. An American officer at MACV says: "Truong is a hot-headed bully, whose only way to get himself obeyed by his men is to bawl insults at them and threaten them with prison and firing squad."

Things are even worse on the political front. Ever since his "triumph" in the one-man presidential race, Thieu has turned practically every man against him. Most of the "Senators" oppose him and his valets. The press clamours: "The regime is dying. It has reached the lowest depth of infamy. We are witnessing the twilight of the Thieu regime." And a doctor who has kept abreast of the situation asserts: "For Thieu the situation is beyond retrieve. He is but a political corpse which has started rotting."

During a Senate session at the *Dien Hong* Hall, a Senator shouted: "The Americans have brought Thieu to power. It is now up to them to remove him from office. When the roar of American B.52s and the millions of tons of American bombs stops, then the Vietnamese will be able to hear the voices of each other."

But in his *Isolation Palace*, Thieu is not resigned to his fate. More and more people have been arrested by his police. In the old imperial city of Hue, nearly 300 students were rounded up in one single night and taken Heaven knows where. In Saigon, a stifling atmosphere prevails in all eleven districts. Police Chief Trang Si Tan is flinging himself about. At police headquarters, all detention rooms are filled to capacity and in the torture chambers near the Zoo, the lights are on all night.

The Saigon government needs 200 billion piastres to rebuild its badly-battered army. Little is left of American aid, and so slogans are put out for "self-reliance" and "Vietnamization." A hundred new taxes are decreed. Business slumps. It becomes ever harder to earn one's bowl of rice.

The nights are still. The streets are empty. A storm is brewing. In the workers' quarters at Khanh Hoi and Lo Sieu, the children are singing:

To stand on our own feet
And have enough to eat
Let's topple Thieu
And knock down his whole gang.

Saigon under Thieu in 1972 is just like Saigon under Diem in 1963, say many people. The same chaos and tension, the same stifling, unbearable atmosphere.

There is one difference, though: anti-Americanism, i.e. the disgust at, scorn for, hatred of and opposition to the Americans, has become even more open and widespread.

Over the last five or six years of contact with "GI civilization," the Saigonese have come to realize more fully than ever that nothing can be more precious than the spiritual values of one's own nation. Material wealth unaccompanied by a spirit of independence and self-respect only leads to moral ruin. Many school and college students, who formerly liked, believed in, and admired the Americans, now turn against them and enthusiastically join movements with such slogans as: "Let's go back to our nation's roots" and "Let's speak to our compatriots and listen to them." They want to cause the stream of the people's strength to gush forth even more strongly and to immerse themselves in it.

Here is what a patriotic woman teacher said in the course of a recent meeting: "How fortunate that after such a long occupation by US troops our fellow-countrymen still stick to their national *baba* silk garments, relish their milk-apples and mangoes, love their fragrant rice and sweet folk melodies... How fortunate that neither American miniskirts, Californian rice, nor GI music have succeeded in catching their fancy."

When, following the fall of Quang Tri to the liberation troops, Thieu had to go there to try to bolster up his troops' morale, the conversations in Saigon tea-houses naturally turned to this topic. People said to each other: "Nixon is asking for more cannonfodder, and Thieu has of course to comply. Now is the time for him to repay his debt to the American President. Over the past few years, the GIs have died by the hundred of thousands for Thieu to remain in the Independence Palace. Now, it is the turn of Thieu's soldiers to die for Nixon to remain in the White House." What a penetrating remark! It hits the nail on the head: many American and Saigon soldiers have indeed paid with their lives for the consolidation of two wobbly presidential seats on either side of the Pacific!

SOS calls keep coming from Saigon generals in Tri Thien, in the Central Highlands, in An Loc, Binh Dinh and other places. They are so busy fighting for their lives that they have to put a temporary halt to their wheeling and dealing. The whole of that social stratum, which we shall call the *military-comprador, bureaucratic clique* and which includes all the infamous members of the *Khaki Party*, has been thrown into confusion and bewilderment. For years, they have drawn comfort and support from American money and troops. Now, dollars are coming only in driblets and many GIs have left. The backbone of that clique is now made up of the 13 puppet regular divisions. But seven or eight vertebrae of that backbone have already been smashed. The pillars of the *Khaki Party* turn their anxious look to the Independence Palace, Thieu's residence. They know that if Thieu goes, nothing can save the *Khaki Party*, which has neither popular roots nor following, from immediate collapse.

In the sweltering days of this summer, neither Thieu nor his henchmen seem to have much confidence left in each other and in their American and Vietnamese friends. In early May, Thieu's wife again set out on trips to Italy and Switzerland and the generals began accelerating the flow of their money transfers to Hongkong and France. At the booking office of Air Viet Nam at No. 116, Nguyen Hue street, wives and children of VIPs are queuing up, lugging heavy suitcases. The Boeings and Caravelles flying to Hongkong, Paris and Rome are full to capacity. In the Lower House of Parliament, deputy Do Sinh Tu shouted: "While appealing to all of us to fight to the bitter end, why should Mr Thieu be sending his wife and his money abroad? Let him stop doing it!"

It is very difficult indeed for Thieu and other members of the *Khaki Party* to comply. Every morning, at 4:30 sharp, the people in the whole of District One of Saigon city can hear the engine of a chopper revving up: it is the special HU.1 helicopter on standby duty on the grounds of the presidential palace. It is piloted by a captain who is a nephew of Mrs Thieu's. And here is the message that the noise of its engine is carrying to all Saigonese: "I, President Thieu, am still here. So beware. And let me tell you this: If it comes to pinch, I won't rush headlong into a tunnel, like that fool Diem, and die like a rat. I will just hop off in that American helicopter!"

There is enough room in the helicopter for Thieu, his wife, his financial manager Dang Van Quang, his police chief and son-in-law Trang Si Tan, and his close adviser Hoang Duc Nha, who has sworn to swim or sink with him. On the navigation charts these routes have been carefully plotted: Saigon-Bangkok (from which PanAm flights could be taken to Paris, Geneva, etc.) and Saigon-Yankee Station (where American aircraft carriers are standing by).

10 p.m. Sirens start howling, announcing the curfew. Only military vehicles and troops remain in the streets. Military and civilian police stalk about. The US embassy is a windowless fortress. The MACV headquarters is in a bustle. The USAID building is astir. The "Independence Palace" looks strangely isolated, as the night descends on Saigon.

The men living in those headquarters, building and palace are lumped together by the Saigonese under one designation: "that gang." As the 3 million Saigonese go to bed, they wish with all their hearts that in the morning, when they wake up, they will find their city swept clean of "that gang" which have been proliferating in the shadow of the American embassy. Saigon—pure, clean and happy—will again be a shining Pearl of the Orient.

"That gang are shaking with fear," the Saigonese think, "for they are now resorting to martial law, round-ups and frantic massacres. They are heading right for the abyss."

Dawn will soon be breaking for the people of Saigon—rosy, pure and fresh.

May 1972

THANH NAM

Revolutionary power's 10-point policy vis-à-vis newly-liberated areas

A humane, sensible and reasonable treatment

TRUE to the spirit of the 10-point policy proclaimed on January 25, 1972, by the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, the revolutionary power in Quang Tri province as well as in other liberated areas completely abstains from terror and reprisals against former civil servants of the quisling administration. What is expected from them is continued service in various existing offices now placed under the revolutionary power for the sake of the uninterrupted functioning of those organs. It is also required that civil servants scrupulously abide by different policies and measures of the revolutionary power and hand over to the latter all files, documents, weapons, equipment, materials and property of the US-Nguyen Van Thieu administration. Such requirements are regarded by all the people in newly-liberated areas as exceedingly sensible and reasonable. Moreover, the revolutionary power commends and rewards those civil servants who help the people discover caches of documents, arms and ammunition, equipment and other property of the enemy.

Humane treatment is also reserved to members of the Saigon army by the revolutionary power which, furthermore, makes it possible for them to take part in the people's and nation's effort and in the building of a happy life for the whole national community. In view of the security of the people's lives and property, the revolutionary power asks former Saigon troops to hand over all files, documents, weapons, equipment, materials used in the war of aggression and in repressive campaigns against the people. In accordance with the wishes of each member of the Saigon Army, arrangements are made to help him earn his living or just return to his native place where he is to live an honest civilian life. Those who volunteer to serve in the liberation armed forces and make their contribution to the anti-US patriotic resistance are welcomed and treated on an equal footing with other fighters. The revolutionary power highly values those who have accomplished combat exploits and those who have left the enemy ranks for home. A policy of generosity and humanity is applied to those who, after having committed crimes against the people and the Fatherland, have shown sincere repentance.

In Quang Tri as well as in other liberated areas, civil servants and armymen have stayed on with the revolutionary power in great numbers and they have done so in differing circumstances. Some participated in the local people's uprisings right at the start, when the Liberation Army launched its first attacks on the enemy. Many Saigon troops either collectively or individually have mutinied, and cases of collective rebellion by big units with their commanding officers have also been recorded. Others have remained to be able to continue to support their families, or as war victims or former prisoners of the Liberation Army. All have been benefiting from a generous, humane, sensible and reasonable treatment in line with the policies proclaimed by the revolution. A case in point was that of the anti-war 56th Regiment at Tan Lam, Quang Tri province, who voluntarily enlisted themselves into the people's liberation armed forces and were consequently allowed to keep their grades and to enjoy the same rights and prerogatives as other officers and men of the Liberation Army. All units and individuals associated with popular uprisings and rebellions have been commended and rewarded by the revolutionary power. In all liberated hamlets and villages can be found people's militiamen who are former members of the enemy "civil guards". Volunteers have been accepted into regional armed forces or main force units. War victims are cared for, no matter what position they held in the Thieu administration or army. Daily reality in the liberated areas proves that the revolutionary power means to put into effect a true policy of forbearance and of national unity and of directing hatred against the Yankee aggressors. Thousands of families having their members still in Saigon ranks have had their burden of grievance and sorrow completely removed and partaken in the general elation of freedom. On the other hand, the US-Thieu regime has been taking dastardly reprisals against thousands of former resistance members. A cruel and inhumane treatment is meted out to their own civil servants and armymen after their conscience, honour and blood have been bought with dollars. Their lives are later cut down with extreme ruthlessness: armymen's corpses reduced to ashes by US bombs on battlefields or thrown into the sea, civil servants and their families killed in the course of US wanton extermination bombings against towns and cities.

In returning to the people's community, Saigon civil servants and soldiers realize that with their restored dignity they can now enjoy a life of happiness and progress under the revolutionary power.

TAM DUONG

Newly-formed medical teams care for the population's health in newly-liberated areas

South Viet Nam cities and the present state of negotiations

SINCE its announcement by the *Voice of Viet Nam* and the *Giai phong Radio*, the DRVN October 26 Statement and the PRG October 28 Statement on the present state of Viet Nam — US negotiations has stirred up a political effervescence in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam.

In Saigon, from Phuc Lam, Cho Lon to Ba Chieu, Thi Nghe, from Thu Thiem to Khanh Hoi, Bay Hien, Xa Lo, everywhere groups of people assembled to discuss the Statement's content or switched on their radios to listen to it. Many people tape-recorded or copied it to pass it on to others.

Several security and police agents who formerly kept watch over those listening to *Giai Phong* or *Hanoi Radio*, now tuned them in for the news. In X. district, a number of district heads overtly resisted Saigon troops called in against them.

In My Tho, people of all walks of life inside or outside the provincial capital welcomed the DRVN Government's plan for peace and national reconciliation. Thousands of secondary school pupils in the province raised the matter with their teachers and held teach-ins against Nguyen Van Thieu's stubborn and double-dealing attitude. Many Saigon armymen and officers garrisoned in Nguyen Tri Phuong and Ly Thuong Kiet boulevards and at the Hung Vuong military training centre joined the people in listening to the *Voice of Viet Nam*. Civil guard Companies 203 and 872 disobeyed their commanders order to sack and plunder the people's belongings.

"Peace will soon be restored," many soldiers said, "don't let's cause any further resentment among the people." Men of civil guard Battalion 402 forced to set an ambush left their position for another site.

In Hau Nghia and Long An provincial capitals, thousands of men in the Saigon army and administration on October 26 and 27 sympathetically discussed the declaration with the local people. Many of them handed back their arms and returned home to earn their living.

In Long Xuyen provincial capital (An Giang), Saigon troops and officers openly scored US duplicity and Thieu's warlike attitude.

Many political and religious figures and Saigon MPs also overtly acclaimed the Statement. Deputy Vu Van Mau on October 27 called for Thieu's resignation in an agreed-on coup and establishment of a government representing the South Vietnamese as the only qualified representative to negotiate with the RSVN PRG a political solution. Deputy Ho Ngoc Nhuan also favoured Thieu's withdrawal. He held that it was really stupid of Thieu and the Americans not to part from each other as quickly as possible. Nhuan voiced his firm support for the provisions of the North Viet Nam — US draft Agreement. Deputy Tran Van Tuyen expressed satisfaction with the accord reached. He declared: "If Thieu stays on, we will face a great danger, because his government cannot build the country's future. Therefore, it is necessary to change it before or on the signing of the agreement."

Former Deputy Ngo Cong Duc made on October 28 a statement, saying: "As people favouring, and struggling for, a peaceful, independent, neutral and non-communist South Viet Nam, we do not accept Nguyen Van Thieu's participation in the future provisional government in any capacity or form, because he is the obstacle and a constant threat to peace in Viet Nam."

On October 31, the Executive Council of An Quang Buddhist Sect in Saigon made public a 9-point communiqué, urging "a cease-fire, respect of the people's right to self-determination, an end to all feuds and reprisals among political parties and groups". It "welcomed every innovation and contribution to peace," and called for "united action to rebuild the country." An MP of the same Sect "praised the DRVN Statement as 'an important initiative and a maximum effort of the other side." He affirmed that "Saigon and Washington would be blamed for the failure to sign the accord at the appointed time and to restore peace."

Ex-General Duong Van Minh published on November 1 a peace appeal, calling for the founding in Saigon of a genuine democratic regime in which opposing factions may wage a peaceful struggle and ensure the South Vietnamese people's right to decide their own destiny through free and fair elections. He held that in the present situation, all obstacles must be removed so that the peace-loving forces, religious communities, political parties and people of goodwill may join efforts to build a lasting peace. Minh also pressed for "national concord between North and South Viet Nam by normalizing relations and re-establishing economic and cultural ties between the two zones and preparing for the reunification of the country in freedom."

Commenting on, and appraising, the impact of the DRVN Government's October 26 Statement, a number of foreign pressmen in Saigon described it as "a Dien Bien Phu, a *Mau Than Tet* offensive on the diplomatic front and a political hurricane right in Saigon streets."

South Viet Nam NFL and VNANDPF held joint conference to demand

The signing at once of the Agreement on ending the war in Viet Nam

THE Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces on November 1st and 2nd held an enlarged joint conference to review all aspects of the patriotic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and discuss measures to intensify the united struggle against the US aggression, for national salvation, according to GPA.

After the opening speech by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC, and the speech of greetings by Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN, the conference heard the address by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Alliance, on the struggle of the South Viet Nam townspeople, a report on the "Developments on the military front" by Tran Nam Trung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL CC; a report on the "External activities, especially the current peace negotiations and the world people's movement in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression," by Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, member of the Presidium of the NFL CC.

The conference also heard reports by leaders of various nationalities, religious communities and social strata of the South Viet Nam population.

It unanimously adopted a communiqué which said among other things:

I. The Conference warmly commended all the liberation armed forces and people of South Viet Nam for their new, great, and allround victories such as never recorded before.

The glorious feats of arms of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in over 200 days and nights of fighting have taken a further step in seriously foiling the US strategy of "Vietnamization of the war", thus fundamentally changing the balance of forces on the battlefield, opening a new situation extremely favorable to our cause of anti-US fight for national salvation.

An important part of the puppet army's live forces has been floored; many solid defence lines and strong defense complexes of the enemy have been smashed; in many strategic theaters of operation, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have risen up and laid waste the enemy's coercive machine, wrested back control, and opened up newly liberated areas that are now linked up together. All these victories have upset the enemy's entire defensive posture, driven the Saigon puppet regime from the central down to the regional levels into a state of grave crisis and rapid weakening. The revolution's strategic offensive position has been developed vigorously on all the battlefields, even into the enemy's most important areas.

In the newly liberated regions, after seizing back control, the South Viet Nam people are seethingly and enthusiastically building, strengthening and broadening the role of the revolutionary administration.

In the urban centers and areas still controlled by the enemy, broad masses of people of all strata, turning to the central slogan of demanding peace, independence, democracy and national concord, have continually pushed forward their struggle, spearheading it at the US aggressors and the handful of lackeys headed by Nguyen Van Thieu.

Besides the National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, new forces struggling for peace, independence, democracy and national concord have emerged, thus forming a front broader than ever before, for joint action against the US and Thieu.

Faced with the danger of rapid collapse of his "Vietnamization" plan, Nixon has hurriedly "re-Americanized" the war, — resumed the war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, ordered exterminatory bombings and shellings throughout both South and North Viet Nam and piled up new and innumerable bloody crimes, confronting our entire nation with new and enormous trials. But the frenzied efforts of the Nixon administration can only bring it still more traumatic defeats.

The conference took the unanimous view that the trend of development of the revolutionary war in South Viet Nam is irresistible; that the failure of the "Vietnamization of the war," as well as all other war strategies of the US aggressors are inevitable. Never before have the armed and political forces of the revolution in South Viet Nam been in such a good shape and good strength as they are now. More than ever before, our armed forces and people are fully capable of fighting hard, fighting victoriously, fighting a long drawn out war, and advancing steadily to total victory.

2. The tremendous victories of the current offensive and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, together with the relentless efforts full of goodwill of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have brought the Nixon administration into substantial negotiations.

The fact that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in agreement with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, has handed to the US side a draft "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam," and has reached the completion of the text of this Agreement, was a big success of the entire Vietnamese nation, the American people and the peace- and justice-loving people around the world. If this Agreement is signed and observed by the parties concerned, the 17 million people in South Viet Nam will have at once a peace in independence and freedom, they will have the conditions to move from hostility to normalcy, to materialize national reconciliation and concord; all the families will be reunited and join efforts to build a new life of plenty and happiness; the two zones of Viet Nam, South and North, prompted by the love for the nation, will be able to restore normal relations in all fields in equality and mutual respect: the US government will have the opportunity to end war in honor, and bring home without delay the soldiers and officers, sons and brothers of the American people including American servicemen captured in South and North Viet Nam. At the same time, a new page of history will be opened in the relations between the United States and Viet Nam, to the benefit of both nations and of peace in Indochina, Asia and the world.

The conference energetically condemned the double-dealing attitude of the US government which not only refuses to sign the Agreement, but even asks to change provisions already agreed upon relating to the content of the Agreement. The Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration's ravings for war and mad opposition to peace and national concord have laid bare its utterly reactionary and bellicose nature. As a matter of fact, Thieu's "opposition" is but part of the US scheme to find pretexts for protracting the negotiations and to fool public opinion, while refusing to end all US involvement in Viet Nam, prolonging and stepping up the US aggressive war, in a bid to maintain the US neo-colonialist sway in South Viet Nam, and keep Viet Nam partitioned for ever. The conference firmly demanded that the US sign at once the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" without changing the provisions already agreed upon and must seriously observe the commitments it has made.

Loyal to the supreme interests of the nation and the aspirations of the entire people, and persisting in their fundamental line and policies, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces are prepared to contact and consult with all the political and religious forces and organizations, and all the individuals both at home and abroad who desire peace and national concord, including members of the Saigon army and administration, so as to join actions to put an early end to the war and restore peace on the basis of the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam."

The Viet Nam homeland has been enduring more than a quarter-century of war, with over ten years of resistance to the most brutal war of aggression in history provoked by US imperialism. Only the US aggressors and a handful of their die-hard lackeys are the main culprits of this criminal war against the Vietnamese people. It is they who have brought mourning, suffering, hatred, and division among the Vietnamese people. In contrast, the entire Vietnamese people cherish peace, independence, democracy and national concord. Proceeding from the policy of great national union and from the realities of history, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces are resolutely striving for the materialization of national reconciliation and concord, considering it their foremost, fundamental and long-term policy. That policy consists in moving from hostility to normalcy, opposing discrimination, encouraging solidarity and mutual love among the Vietnamese, extolling the love of the country and of the nation, fostering mutual love and loyalty among fellow-countrymen, fostering the love for one's native land and co-villagers, so that all of us will join main and might in resisting the US aggressors and saving our country, healing the wounds of war, and rebuilding our war-torn homeland.

Peace and national independence must be closely linked with the exercise of broad democratic freedoms: freedom of the person, freedom of opinion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of organization, freedom of political activity, freedom of creed, freedom of movement, freedom of residence, freedom to earn one's living, guarantees for the right to private ownership and for freedom of enterprise. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces undertake to materialize, and will strive their hardest for the materialization of these democratic liberaties, as provided for in the said Agreement.

The Conference sternly denounced to public opinion at home and abroad and vehemently condemned the schemes and acts of the US and Thieu of permanently detaining, brutally torturing, and stealthily murdering patriots and freedom-loving people belonging or not to the National Front for Liberation and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, including members of the opposition. The Saigon administration must rescind all its fascist laws, set free at once all the patriots, dismantle all disguised concentration camps such as "strategic hamlets" and "refugee camps," and abolish all coercive laws and regulations, measures and organizations against the people.

The Conference rejoiced at seeing that the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" has been warmly welcomed by the people across the country, and sympathized with and supported by broad public opinion abroad. The double-dealing of the US government has aroused strong waves of indignation among the Vietnamese people and has been energetically condemned by the American people and peoples around the world. The text of the Agreement is becoming the joint program for action of all the peace- and justice-loving forces who are fighting for a genuine peace in Viet Nam.

3. The "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" should have been signed and peace should have been restored in Viet Nam. But, the US imperialists still refuse to renounce their aggressive design, and Nguyen Van Thieu is frenziedly opposing peace and national concord. For these reasons, the Conference called on all armed forces and people to persist in and step up their struggle on all the three fronts — military, political and diplomatic — to strike and rise up powerfully, to record many and yet greater and allround victories, and smash all the US-puppet's perfidious schemes and new adventures; and to demand that the US observe all its commitments and sign at once the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" so as to create conditions for building an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advancing to the peaceful reunification of the Homeland.

The Conference also called on various strata of the people in the cities and towns and rural areas still under US-puppet control, to step up the fight against US aggression.

The Conference expressed the deep and sincere gratitude of the South Vietnamese people to the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, and all the peace- and justice-loving nations, all international organizations and people around the world who are increasing their support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The Conference called on all friends in the five continents to urge, under all suitable forms, that the US government sign at once that Agreement, and to reserve yet stronger support for the Vietnamese people till total victory.

The Conference sincerely welcomed the American people who have, for the sake of peace and justice, and for the honour and legitimate interests of the United States, struggled persistently against the extremely criminal war of aggression of the US government in Viet Nam and Indochina. The Conference called on the American people to step up their struggle to demand that the US government sign immediately the agreement reached with the DRVN Government so that peace may return in Viet Nam, US servicemen may soon return home, and a new period of peace and friendship in the relations between the United States and Viet Nam may begin.

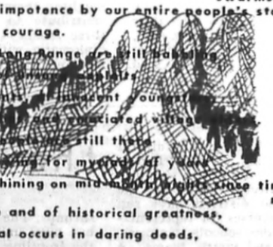
4. The Conference once again affirmed the unshakable determination of the 17 million South Vietnamese people, together with their compatriots throughout the country, and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples, to persist in and step up their fight to completely defeat the US war of aggression, frustrate the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina, and win real independence and freedom for each country.

Going up the line together

TODAY the whole country is exploding with joy
At the news of history adding new Dien Biens to old glories.
While the mountains of foreign invaders' bleached bones are rising many layers higher.
Oh! The comforting sight of aggressors of yore
Scrambling onboard homebound vessels!
Feats of unfading fame flourish on the battlefields,
Heroes bring honour to the land like millions of flowers bring fragrance to a field,
Like cascades of silt bring fertility to the Red River.
More solidity is instilled into the Fatherland's Brass Wall,
The call of past proud millenniums
Turns bamboo sticks into redoubtable weapons,
Each orchard into a base,
Each inch of ground into an impregnable fortress.
The enemy multitudinous legions,
Forests of guns, mounts of shells, innumerable armadas and swarms of planes
Are reduced to impotence by our entire people's stamina
And incredible courage.
Streams in the Long Range are still [illegible]
Remembrances of [illegible]
Of simple peasants of [illegible]
Of rustic old ladies [illegible]
Thirty million [illegible]
Like the sun glowing for myriads of years
Like the moon shining on mid-autumn nights since time out of mind.
Oh day of pride and of historical greatness,
When our revival occurs in daring deeds,
When the whole nation aware of who is the real foe,
North, South and Centre going up the line together,
To behead the hydra of tyranny
And restore peace in the land of our ancestors!

Prof. TRAN TIEN DAT

(From Saigonese Review Doi Dien *(Confrontation)*
August 6, 1971)



... our gains will be bigger

(Continued from page 1)

AFTER nearly 30 years of war, nobody is more attached to peace than the South Vietnamese, the Vietnamese in general. We want to sign with the United States an Agreement to end the war and re-establish peace, and together with other political forces in South Viet Nam to settle our internal affairs in the spirit of national concord. We urge the American side to implement seriously what has been agreed upon, promptly sign the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam.

On the other hand, the Vietnamese have the profound sense that 'nothing is more precious than independence and freedom' and that 'there must be no peace in slavery'. We are left with no other alternative than to persist in and step up our fight until we wrest back independence and freedom, our fundamental national rights and right to self-determination. As long as there is aggression or colonialist domination, whatever its camouflage, we will fight on.

The situation is much favorable to us. We are in a winning and strong position. Our entire nation is a block of iron will. Our friends wholeheartedly support and assist us. We are fighting successfully. We have the firm conviction that in persisting in and stepping up our resistance, our people will conclude the war with still bigger gains. No force on earth can shake our determination. And nothing can salvage the Nixon administration's 'Vietnamization' or 're-Americanization' of the war.

SOUTH VIET NAM

The whole North Viet Nam people support DRVN Government's October 26 Statement

THE DRVN Government's October 26 Statement has received unanimous and warm support from all her people. On far-off islands and remote hills, in factories and paddy fields have been heard angry criticisms of US aggressors' duplicity, and promises to step up production and combat and fulfil the North's duty as supplier to the great frontline until complete victory. Meetings and demonstrations have taken place in all localities and have voiced the people's wholehearted support for the Government.

Appeals have been launched to their members by the Viet Nam Women's Union and the Viet Nam Working Youth Union to stiffen their esolve to confront US aggression. Meetings were held by the Transport and Communications youths, and resolutions were passed urging the young generation to stand ready for any assignment and to keep traffic flowing to the frontline at any cost. The public security men pledged to cooperate with the entire people and foil all schemes of the US imperialists and their agents, no matter how long, arduous and difficult the effort may be. A joint conference of the four religious organizations (the Viet Nam United Buddhist Association, the National Liaison Committee of Vietnamese Patriotic and Peace-loving Catholics, the General Association of Vietnamese Protestants and the Federation of Vietnamese Caodaists) promised to recommend their followers to heighten their vigilance and actively contribute to the struggle on the three fronts — military, and political diplomatic with a view to liberating the South, defending and building the socialist North and ultimately achieving national reunification.

On the production front, efforts are being exerted to overfulfil plans. To produce an additional million kilowatt-hour for the South has become a concrete target of technicians and workers of the Yen Phu Electricity Plant. At the March 8 Textile Mill, the target is half-a-million meters of cloth. In Haiphong, dockers have set to themselves this objective: reduce the cost of freight handling and transportation and preserve the quality of goods and materials for the State. The youths of Haiphong suburbs are actively growing *azolla* at the lowest cost and taking part in military training: they are ready to join the armed forces. The Hanoi Bach Mai Hospital has undertaken to provide the best care to patients while raising the professional standard of its medical staff through study so as to give the most efficient help to combat.

The people of ethnic minorities have taken the resolution to unite with other people throughout the country, persevere in, and step up, the anti-US patriotic resistance, in defence of fundamental national rights, even though the struggle may last many years more and require greater sacrifices. Youths from all nationalities have been leaving for the front one contingent after another.

Said Giap Kim Thoa, a young woman worker with a small child and a husband fighting on a far-away battlefield: "We women are deeply attached to peace, but it should be genuine peace in independence and freedom. The more obstinate and cunning the Yankee aggressors, the more resolved we are to defeat them. For two US presidential terms, I have lived far from my husband. So I am quite used to separation now and no hardship can frighten me if we have to fight longer. I must tell Nixon this: So long as you continue your aggression, the Vietnamese will tirelessly fight until you quit."

Women in My Hao district, Hai Hung province, declared: "We wives, sisters and mothers are more desirous than anyone else of peace and family reunion. But as the Yankee aggressors are still there, we have to urge our husbands, brothers and sons to join the army and fight for the defence of our homes and our Fatherland. Whatever is required by the State, we are ready to offer — either food or manpower."

And this feeling of fighters of the 2nd company assigned to the defence of the capital city is shared by all other people in North Viet Nam: "We have made all preparations. We nurture a bitter hatred for the US aggressors. Only by fighting until final victory can we force them to renounce their design."

the DRVN in brief

o Nam Ha province's Cultural Service is stepping up the "Drown the thunder of bombs with singing" movement. Cultural House in the city, towns and districts have run crash singing courses for representatives from various schools, factories, co-operatives and youth teams. A particularly warm response has been received from self-defence units of the Silk Workshop, the Nam Dinh Textile Complex and various pharmaceutic and engineering works. Amateur dance and song troupes from various co-ops have been zealously performing for combat and production units jointly with propaganda teams.

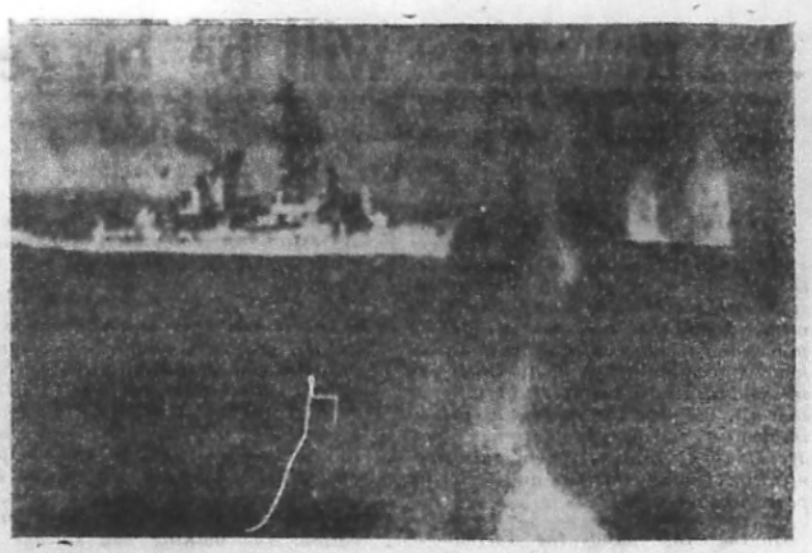
o In spite of the enemy blockade, fishermen in Do Son have been carrying on their trade. Since April 16 this year, fishing co-ops have caught over 600 tons of fish and shrimps. The supply of sea products has been uninterruptedly flowing to the frontline. Meanwhile Do Son salt makers have constantly raised the quality of their product through technical innovations. In July alone, more than 1,000 tons of salt were made.

o The countryside has received another 881 agricultural engineers. Since its establishment, the College of Agriculture has trained some 8,000 such technicians for agriculture. By combining study with performance of emergency tasks, and linking study to production and combat jobs, the College has raised the quality of the training. In many classes, 100% of the students have passed their exams.

o This lamp is one of the most beautiful pieces of ceramics dating back to the Tran dynasty (about 700 years ago). It measures 16 inches in length, and is covered with an ivory-white glaze and blue and brown designs. The decorations on the body of the lamp and on its base together with 2 symetrical rolling dragons on both sides are indications of the high artistic standards of Vietnamese ceramics in those times.

o For 6 years running, Ninh Binh province has remarkably fulfilled its quota of man-power for the battlefront. Upholding this tradition, the province's Catholics are promoting the "Every family joins the army and vies in fighting the US aggressors!" drive. Virtually all parishes in the Phat Diem Diocese have held meetings to select men for the army. The Con Thoi parish which has been subject to fierce US air attacks boasts its now combat militia teams and has sent many of its youths to the front. In the last selection drive, parishes in Phat Diem have more than meet the requirements in terms of number, health standard and deadline.

o The Viet Nam-Czechoslovokia Friendship Hospital (Haiphong) has been awarded a Military Exploit order 2nd class by the National Assembly and Government of the DRVN for its achievements in first aid care and combat support. Since the resumption of the US bombing of Haiphong city, the hospital has saved the lives of 722 people critically wounded by US bombs and shells. Its doctors and specialists have performed many complicated surgical operations, saving many children, pregnant women and old agers, and reducing fatalities to the minimum.



US war vessels sunk by DRVN artillery and militia

Vinh Linh armed security men defending the air space of the Homeland

On the occasion of the Kingdom of Cambodia's National Day

Success in all seasons

FROM the dry season to the rainy season, the Cambodian armed forces and people have won tremendous successes of strategic importance.

The Cambodian revolutionary army keeps growing, and every one of its battles has been a success. It has destroyed or disbanded a major enemy military force, written off or depleted many brigades, regiments and battalions of Phnom Penh and Saigon troops, foiled many enemy operations, smashed through many enemy defence lines and made a clean sweep of enemy defence complexes and outposts in key areas, in the vicinity of cities and towns and along strategic routes.

In the 1971-1972 dry season, the enemy was badly bloodied. 56,000 of his men were put out of action. Two regiments and over 40 battalions were destroyed or decimated. With the coming of the rainy season, the US aggressors and their lackeys hoped to regain the lost ground. With a massive build-up they launched a series of violent onsets on the liberated areas but met with utter failure. Armed fighting and political demonstrations erupted in quick succession. Alongside outstanding annihilation battles fought by the Liberation Army, guerilla warfare flared up across the country. Many enemy attacks were beaten back. The liberation forces repelled the enemy step by step, seized control of many important areas, cut communication lines and encircled the enemy in Phnom Penh and many other towns and cities. All the 3 categories of Liberation armed forces attacked in force in Kompong Thom, Sveyrieng, Siem Reap, Preyveng, Neak Luong, Romeahesh, Kompong Trach, and Phnom Penh and its surroundings. In only a 30-day period, the PNLAF knocked out 15,000 enemy, destroyed 18 battalions and 4 companies, levelled 35 outposts and shot down 16 aircraft. The enemy hoped to turn weather difficulties in this rainy season against the Liberation forces, but far from being able to blunt the onslaughts of the Liberation fighters his troops were caught off guard. The Cambodian revolutionary armed forces initiated a series of devastating assaults. On September 11, 1972 they completely wiped out a battalion of Phnom Penh troops, and cleared the enemy from the Chhoeu Kach sector. On September 7 and 8, they destroyed or depleted 10 battalions, captured 8 positions, swept the enemy out of many areas in Kompong Trabeck. Between September 13 and 16, the PNLAF operating in Siem Reap routed the 25th brigade and frustrated the enemy operation codenamed "Angkor Chhay." On August 30 and October 1, guerillas and regional troops knocked out 5 companies and one platoon of enemy troops along Highways 1 and 5. The deep thrusts into Phnom Penh and its surrounding on October 6 cost the enemy more than 600 casualties plus 37 military vehicles wrecked and one brigade badly battered. Referring to the poor performance of the Phnom Penh troops, *Reuter* reported on October 26 that many battles had continued for 4 weeks yet government reinforcements (Lon Nol troops) still failed to recover control of any place.

The PNLAF also mounted smaller operations in all parts of the country and pinned down the enemy and set the stage for attrition actions against the mobile forces of the Phnom Penh army and for surprise attack from all directions. Many areas were rid of enemy troops. The liberated areas have been enlarged to 8-tenths of national territory, running North-South and East-West through rich and heavily populated regions. The Northeastern and Southeastern free zones of Cambodia form with those of Laos and South Viet Nam a new battle array very favourable to the patriotic forces in all the 3 Indochinese countries.

The great successes obtained by the Cambodian armed forces and people in the last dry and rainy seasons have worsened the enemy passivity and predicament.

The Phnom Penh troops have received one crippling blow after another in all battlefields. The failure of Operation "Chenla II" was most typical of all. 12,000 of the troops involved were wiped out and virtually all the objectives of operation remained unachieved.

The Saigon soldiery, a prop for the Phnom Penh army, was beaten hollow on Highway 7, at Chup, Suong, Kandal Chrum and other places and was no longer effective as support forces to help this lesser army hold its own. Its defeat had an adverse impact on the fighting spirit of the Phnom Penh troops who are running into new, serious difficulties. The more the Cambodian revolutionary armed forces fight, the stronger they become. All the 3 categories of troops have been gaining in both quantity and quality. Their will to fight has constantly stiffened. Their combat performance has proved highly devastating. Their flexibility and creativeness in combat organization and in conduct of the fighting are remarkable. As a result, the PNLAF are in a position to stage major, large-scale and sustained attacks and are fully capable of foiling multi-battalion size operations launched by the enemy simultaneously from many directions with maximum air and artillery support.

Sport drive steadily spread in Cambodia's free zone

Here

and

there

*

It's his tail

Thieu is to Nixon what a dog's tail to its head, this quip of McGovern's which has gained widespread currency since its coining has been substantiated even by Mr Nixon himself many a time, namely in his White House press conference on February 10, 1972 (*USIS*): "Every proposal we have made in Paris has been a joint proposal by the government of South Viet Nam and the government of the United States."

"Now at this point, I can say that any future proposals we make will be joint proposals of the government of South Viet Nam and the government of the United States."

It was on the strength of such oft-repeated presidential assurances that secret negotiations were undertaken and ended, four long years and many dilatory manoeuvres later, in the draft "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam," due to be signed by common consent on October 31, 1972 by the parties concerned.

But the tail in lieu and stead of the head started to bark: "The war will go on!", "the struggle will continue until the extermination of the Communists!"

It was universally expected that the head should tell the tail to shut up but instead the head pretended to be puzzled and declared: "It's not me, it's my tail."

Diplomatic bombshell

The disclosure of the principal provisions of the abovementioned accord by the DRVN on the very day of the 164th session of the Paris Conference fairly upset the US delegation's plan. So its head had to hold back his usual leitmotive by putting back into his pocket his prepared statement. The move particularly caught its spokesman, Lambertson, napping. In his subsequent press conference, he set the audience on a ripple of chuckle with his hesitant and invariable answer to every question: "No comment!" The Saigon spokesman genuinely got cross with a US woman correspondent who had asked him whether Thieu was not seeking peace by trying to wipe out the Communists to the last man.

It was not without justification that the October 26, 1972 declaration of the DRVN was regarded by the Western press as a "diplomatic bombshell". "Mr Nixon was cornered," commented *Le Dauphiné Libéré*. "The US President was driven into his last ditch," mused the *Paris-Normandie*.

The flags

To Thieu's hue and cry, the Communists replied with a series of poundings and daily raids which reached figures "exceeding the one-hundred mark within 24 hours and broke all-time highs: 104, 103, 124, 138, 150... Da Nang, Daksieng, Duc Co, Dalat, Ba To, Que Son and even the vicinities of Saigon, all theatres of operations, from Tri-Thien to the Mekong delta, all came under fire.

Reports streaming into the White House made everyone alive to the Communists' ubiquitousness and indicated that their combat potential was far from being exhausted. Men in Saigon and master in Washington were both at a loss.

To such an extent that Thieu, exasperated, ordered "death penalty" for anyone flying or concealing Communist flags and compulsory display of Saigon colours" on every public building, every house, car, bus, motorcycles."

But as soon as the Communists entered a farm, *UPI* noted that the Saigon colours were immediately disposed of and the population hoisted the NFL flag.

No comment!

An uproarious demonstration against the Viet Nam aggression took place on the evening of October 31, 1972, with about 8,000 people participating, in front of Boston's townhall where Pat Nixon was attending a fund-raising dinner of the Republican Party.

Right in the middle of the function, while the First Lady was speaking, a man and a woman jumped to their feet and cried out: "Stop international genocide!".

At the same moment, outside, the demonstrators broke through the cordon, chanting: "Peace at once!", "No promises, but peace!" They set fire to a car and a violent clash occurred with the police who harshly dealt with them and apprehended seven people.

"No comment!", Lambertson would say.

HUONG NAM

in GUYANA

ON August 7, 1972, the delegation of the RSVN PRG arrived in Georgetown, capital of the Republic of Guyana, to attend the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries.

From Havana, the Delegation had flown over Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago — lands that seem very far-away from Viet Nam, but are in fact very close to her, to her fight for independence and freedom. At the Georgetown Conference, those countries warmly welcomed the RSVN PRG as an official member of the Non-Aligned Bloc.

After five hours' flight we landed in Guyana covered with luxuriant, uniformly green forests. She has an area equal to that of South Viet Nam, but her population is only two-thirds of a million mostly in Georgetown and along rivers. Guyana is a tropical country rich in trees and fruit, with immense fields like in South Viet Nam. Her people are very kind and simple.

New country, old friendship

AS our plane touched down, we were struck by the sight of numerous flags of non-aligned countries. RSVN Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Hoang Bich Son and Cuba's Foreign Minister Raul Roa were received by Guyana's Foreign Minister Ramphall. Both of them reviewed a guard of honour and with the other members of their delegation proceeded to the VIP room filled with newspaper correspondents and cameramen. Guyana's Foreign Minister had a lively talk with the SVN Republic envoy and conveyed to the RSVN PRG Delegation greetings from Forbes Burnham, the Prime Minister.

Then, the South Viet Nam delegation was driven to a guest-house in the city outskirts. It was greeted by Guyanese lining the roadsides with tokens of solidarity.

Everyone at the guest-house — from attendants to guards — looked after us with the greatest care. Mrs Rhoda Pollard, our guide, told us: "I am delighted and proud of being assigned to help the RSVN PRG delegation of which I have heard since long."

During our stay in Georgetown, we had the honour of being received by the President of Guyana. At a reception given in its honour, he showed great solicitude for our health and the struggle of our people. Said Premier Forbes Burnham when receiving Deputy Minister Hoang Bich Son: "We follow with deep concern and sympathy the Vietnamese people's fight. We wish them success and think that they have the right to decide themselves their own future without foreign intervention. We, in Guyana, stand for the admission of the Provisional Revolutionary Government as a full member of the Non-Aligned Bloc: in this way you will be able to make your contribution to the Conference and the common struggle. We give our moral support to your effort." In his speech at the opening session of the Conference, dealing with the Viet Nam problem, he declared: "We demand withdrawal of foreign forces from Viet Nam."

Foreign Minister Ramphall met Deputy Minister Hoang Bich Son several times, displayed a particular interest in our resistance and exchanged views with us on the work of the Conference.

On August 10, after the PRG was accepted as a full-fledged member, everybody, including the members of the Guyanese delegation, came to shake hands with us. Our delegation also received warm congratulations from Guyanese ministers and other officials, journalists and representatives of mass organizations.

Meeting with Vietnamese residents

NO words can describe the emotion and joy of the local Vietnamese residents when meeting our delegation. They had been looking forward to our arrival ever since they learned that a government delegation of the Republic of South Viet Nam was to come to the gathering. As soon as we reached the guest-house, we received a telephone call from Mr Nguyen Dac Bang, a 67-year-old Vietnamese who had been deported from Poulo Condore island jail (South Viet Nam) to Guyana in 1930. Brimming with joy when seeing us, he said: "I am proud of being a Vietnamese, a citizen of a nation possessed of a long tradition of unsubmissiveness before foreign invaders, famous for her heroic and successful resistances to Japanese, French and now American imperialists, despite the latter's huge economic and military potentials. I am fully confident in the victory of our people. I am conscious that we Vietnamese are fighting not only for our own nation's future, but also for the interests of other nations who are striving after their own emancipation. Though we are living far from our native country, we Vietnamese residents here always think of our beloved Fatherland and of our national fight for independence and reunification."

Like in other countries, our nationals in Guyana are profoundly patriotic. In 1962, on learning of the setting up in Cuba of an Embassy of the DRVN and a Representation of the South Viet Nam NFL, Mr Nguyen Dac Bang had traveled from Guyana to Cuba to meet Mr Hoang Van Loi, the then ambassador of the DRVN in Cuba, and Mr Le Van Thinh, the then representative of the NFL. He said that all Vietnamese residents in Guyana always turned their minds toward Viet Nam and followed closely the patriotic anti-US resistance in both North and South Viet Nam.

During our stay in Guyana, we met a number of Vietnamese at Mr Nguyen Dac Bang's house. Mr Tran Duc Vinh enthusiastically told us: "How happy I am! This is the first time in 39 years that I met fellow-countrymen coming direct from home. May I convey through you my deep affection and loyalty to my beloved fellow citizens and Motherland?"

Our Vietnamese residents told us of the Guyanese people's deep sympathy with the Vietnamese. They often visit Vietnamese residents and are ready to help them overcome difficulties. A *Guyana-Viet Nam Friendship Association* has been formed. It often organized talks on Viet Nam and, as the Georgetown Conference was held, put up a photo exhibition on Viet Nam.

Early in September 1969, when President Ho Chi Minh passed away the Vietnamese nationals in Guyana held a requiem attended by all of them and a big crowd of Guyanese.

We left Guyana after a short stay amidst a very friendly people. The country is new to us, South Vietnamese, but friendship between Viet Nam and Guyana is old indeed. And now, though we are half-the-globe away from Guyana, we are always convinced that this friendship will never cease flourishing like vegetation in Spring time.

LE ANH KIET

Promises to be kept

ACCORDING to US reports, Mr Nixon was re-elected for another term of presidency in the November 7 election in the United States. As had been anti-cipated, Mr Nixon's victory in the presidential race was not matched by the victory of his Republican Party in the elections to the Senate, House of Representatives and State governorships. In fact, the Republicans lost two more seats at the Senate and one more State governorship. The Democratic Party continues to hold its predominence at both Houses and the majority of governor posts.

Most noteworthy is that a sizable section of the US electorate did not turn out in the Tuesday poll (only about 56% of the people of voting age cast their ballots, the lowest figure in the past 24 years).

Throughout the election campaign, the Viet Nam war always remained the foremost issue. Not only the youth, students and Black Americans, but all other sections of the American people brought streng pressure to bear upon the presidential candidates to make them take a clearcut stand for ending the Viet Nam war. It is for this reason that on November 6, President Nixon had to go on television to promise to the American people that "an agreement that ends the Viet Nam war and brings home all the US troops and prisoners of war would be achieved soon." Mr Nixon also declared that "as we achieve our goal of peace, we will open the door to enormous progress in so many other fields" (UPI, November 7, 1972).

This is actually the progress he had promised four years ago but failed to materialize because of his obstinacy in pursuing the costly war in Viet Nam: a solution to unemployment, the combat against inflation, improvement of education, public health, housing, communication, transport, living environment...

Now is the time for Mr Nixon to implement his solemn election promises. And it is evident that he could not accomplish much should he continue to refuse to end the Viet Nam war at an early date. The American people have given him another chance to keep his promises.

It is certain that with the traumatic experiences of the recent four years' office of Mr. Nixon they will not give him another chance to further delay the implementation of his promises or to renege on them altogether.

SOUTH VIET NAM in Struggle — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION